

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PHNOM 00943 161223Z

20

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 INR-07

PA-01 PRS-01 MC-01 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 SAM-01 /054 W

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O P 161205Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8948

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 943

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: SIXTEENTH DAY OF KC DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 885

1. SUMMARY. THE MILITARY SITUATION WAS GENERALLY QUIET. KC PRESSURE SLACKED OFF CONSIDERABLY IN THE EMBATTLED NEAK LUONG AREA. FANK HELICOPTERS HAVE BROUGHT REINFORCEMENTS TO AND BEGUN LIMITED EVACUATIONS FROM THE ROUTE 4 GARRISON OF KOMPONG SEILA WHICH HAS BEEN ENCIRCLED SINCE MAY, 1974. END SUMMARY.

2. THE MILITARY SITUATION AROUND PHNOM PENH WAS QUIET. KC PRESSURE ALSO SLACKENED CONSIDERABLY IN THE NEAK LUONG AREA ON THE LOWER MEKONG ALTHOUGH FRIENDLY POSITIONS ARE STILL RECEIVING ATTACKS BY FIRE.

3. THE KC FIRED NINE ROCKETS AT POCHENTONG AIRFIELD DURING THE EVENING OF JANUARY 15. ALL LANDED SHORT, BUT RESULTED IN SIXTEEN PERSONS WOUNDED. ON JANUARY 16, FIVE UNIDENTIFIED ROUNDS, THOUGHT TO BE FROM A 75MM RECOILLESS RIFLE WERE FIRED AT POCHENTONG, ALSO LANDING SHORT.

SECRET

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PAGE 02 PHNOM 00943 161223Z

4. ENEMY TROOPS ARE STILL DUG-IN ON THE EAST BANK OF

THE MEKONG OPPOSITE PHNOM PENH DESPITE DAILY, HEAVY AIR ATTACKS AGAINST THEIR POSITIONS. FANK HAS REPORTED KILLING 71 KC IN THIS AREA DURING THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS.

5. THE GARRISON OF KOMPONG SEILA ON ROUTE 4 SOUTH OF THE PICH NIL PASS HAS BEEN ENCIRCLED SINCE MAY, 1974. IT HAS UPON OCCASION BEEN SUBJECTED TO KC ATTACKS BY FIRE OF UP TO ONE THOUSAND ROUNDS PER DAY. ON JANUARY 12, OUTSIDE CONTACT WAS MADE FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE MAY AS AN EIGHT-MAN SPECIAL FORCES TEAM WAS INSERTED INTO KOMPONG SEILA. ON JANUARY 15, KHMER AIR FORCE HELICOPTERS BROUGHT IN REINFORCEMENTS, AND EVACUATED SOME OF THE WOUNDED. THE MILITARY REGION COMMANDER PROMOTED THE GARRISON COMMANDER TO BRIGADIER GENERAL ON THE SPOT. MORALE IS REPORTEDLY HIGH, ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN SOME DEATHS FROM MALNUTRITION. THERE ARE ALSO 9,000 CIVILIANS AND 815 MILITARY IN THE GARRISON. REPORTED CASUALTIES ARE 390 KILLED AND 200 WOUNDED. (NOTE: FANK IS TREATING THIS INFORMATION AS VERY SENSITIVE IN ORDER TO FACILITATE ONGOING EVACUATIONS FROM THE GARRISON.)

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMBAT OPERATIONS, COMBAT ZONES, COMBAT CASUALTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PHNOM00943
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750017-0094
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750146/aaaabolq.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PHNOM PENH 885
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIXTEENTH DAY OF KC DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE
TAGS: MOPS, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006